

## ABSTRACT

A stretcher comprising a molded frame assembly having a first frame pole and a second frame pole interconnected by a spreader bar for maintaining poles in a laterally spaced arrangement. A bed member is carried by the frame poles adapted  
5 for receiving and supporting a person. The molded frame assembly is constructed of a composite of 50% to 85% polyamide resin and 15% to 50% fiberglass by weight to resist hazardous materials and allow for decontamination of the frame assembly. The frame poles are constructed from a plurality of frame arms. A hinge pivotally connects abutting ends of frame arms, and a hinge support carried opposite the  
10 hinge further interconnects frame arms to increase the structural rigidity of the hinge. The frame poles having a hollow interior cavity to reduce weight with reinforcing members disposed in the cavity running the length of the cavity to resist bending and twisting.

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